Quantum of Flared Natural Gas

250. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas which is flared in the country daily;

(b) what is the value of the gas being flared daily;

(c) what is the share of NE Region in this flaring off gas; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to reduce gas flaring in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Currently around 4.4 MMSCMD of natural gas is being flared.

(b) The value of the gas being flared daily is around Rs. 55 lakhs.

(c) Around 1.2 MMSCMD is being flared in the North-East.

(d) Both ONGC and OIL are setting up the required compression and transportation facilities to reduce flaring to the technically minimum level.

Steps to improve functioning of Telephones of Calcutta

251. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to improve the functioning of the Telephones of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Improvement in telephone and services is a continuous process.

(b) Calcutta telephone system has been considerably modernised by induction of Digital Switching and Transmission techniques since early 80s. At present more than 80% of the telephone exchanges are modern computer controlled systems. During the eighth plan period, all electro-mechanical exchanges, whose performance are not satisfactory, will be replaced by the latest generation digital switching systems. The external plant is being rehabilitated by induction of reliable media like digital microwave, optical fibre and ducted jelly filled cable. The customer Service Centres are being computerised. Constant efforts are made to upgrade the technical skills of operating staff by refresher training programmes.

Allotment of LPG Distributorships in Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

252. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of LP Gas distributorships had lately been terminated in and around Ahmedabad (Gujarat) for alleged malpractices by the owners and their 50,000 consumers are facing acute hardship;

(b) whether a number of intending distributors have been interviewed by the Oil Selection Boards concerned and letters of intent have been issued to those selected; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in allotment of distributorships and how long it would take to finally grant the distributorship licences and to start distribution of LP Gas through them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The following